

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 10746 270912Z

20-R  
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 INR-11 SWF-02 DRC-01 RSC-01 /041 W  
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R 270809Z SEP 74  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2370  
INFO USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BGEN EEWT ETRD CH US  
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON FDA STANDARDS IN REJECTING PRC SHRIMP

REF: A. HK 10208; B. HK 10592

SUMMARY. FDA REJECTION OF THIRD PRAWN SHIPMENT AND CANCELLATION OF FDA REJECTION INSURANCE BY INA APPEARS TO END FOR PRESENT U.S. PURCHASE OF PRC ORIGIN PRAWNS. Y.Y. WONG, LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF U.S. IMPORTERS, WANTS U.S. FDA REGULATION TO TAKE TO OCTOBER 15 CANTON TRADE FAIR TO DISCUSS WITH PRC OFFICIALS IN EFFORT TO SAVE THIS TRADE. ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO AIR POUCH OR MAIL VIA FPO THE FDA REGULATIONS FOR US TO GIVE TO WONG FOR THIS PURPOSE. END SUMMARY.

1. A THIRD SHIPMENT OF PRC ORIGIN PRAWNS WORTH ABOUT \$300,000 WAS REJECTED BY THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION IN SEPTEMBER, ACCORDING TO TELEX FROM MURRAY BERGER, PRESIDENT OF SEABROOK FOODS, INC., GREAT NECK, NEW YORK, TO HIS LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE Y. Y. WONG. IN ADDITION, INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA (INA) HAS CANCELLED BERGER'S FDA REJECTION INSURANCE. ANOTHER U.S. INSURANCE COMPANY REQUIRES AND ENGINEERING ON-SITE SURVEY OF PRC SEAFOOD PLANTS BEFORE WRITING FDA REJECTION INSURANCE. THE PRC IS MOST UNLIKELY TO AGREE TO THIS. ONCE THESE DEVELOPMENTS BECOME KNOWN, IN OUR OPINION, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT OTHER U.S. FIRMS

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PAGE 02 HONG K 10746 270912Z

WILL ATTEMPT TO IMPORT PRC SHRIMP. BERGER IS PESSIMISTIC

ABOUT THE FUTURE PRC PRAWN IMPORTS THAT HE MAY REFUSE INVITATION TO FALL CANTON FAIR.

2. WONG SAYS THAT PRC-OWNED CHINA INSURANCE COMPANY'S CURRENT POLICY IS NOT TO WRITE INSURANCE FOR ANY PRC GOODS SHIPPED TO THE U.S. DUE TO LACK OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THIS APPEARS TO CLOSE OFF POSSIBILITY OF GETTING THE CIC TO WRITE FDA REJECTION INSURANCE.

3. WONG, A CHINA TRADE OF LONG STANDING, WANTS TO TAKE WITH HIM TO FALL CANTON FAIR (WHICH OPENS ON OCTOBER 15) AS MUCH TECHNICAL INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ABOUT FDA SHRIMP INSPECTION PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS INCLUDING FDA BACTERIA COUNT METHODS. WONG HOPES TO PRESENT THE FDA REGULATIONS DIRECTLY TO APPROPRIATE PRC OFFICIALS AND TO DISCUSS WITH THEM THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF PRC SHRIMP EXPORTS.

4. Y. Y. WONG IS THE GENERAL MANAGER OF FIDELITY MERCANTILE COMPANY, A MEDIUM SIZED TRADING FIRM THAT HAS HAD LONG-STANDING BROAD CONTACTS WITH PRC TRADE OFFICIALS. HE IS ALSO A VERY HELPFUL CONSULATE CONTACT. IN OUR VIEW HE STANDS A BETTER CHANCE THAN MOST OF BEING ABLE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER USEFULLY WITH CHINESE TRADE OFFICIALS.

5. COMMENT. THE PROBABLE CESSATION OF U.S. SHRIMP IMPORTS FROM THE PRC COMES AT A TIME WHEN PRC OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE 10-1 TRADE IMBALANCE WITH THE U.S. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO SHOW THAT WE ARE SENSITIVE TO THIS PRC CONCERN BY SUPPLYING INFORMATION IN A TIMELY MANNER.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO SEND TO THE CONGEN BEFORE OCTOBER 15 COPIES OF THE REQUESTED INFORMATION FOR US TO PASS TO WONG.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974HONGK10746  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740272-1128  
**From:** HONG KONG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 97  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A. HK 10208; B. HK 10592  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON FDA STANDARDS IN REJECTING PRC SHRIMP  
**TAGS:** BGEN, CH, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005